COVER ART BY ERIK LARSEN, AL GORDON & LIQUID!

IMAGINE BEING IMMORTAL. IMAGINE LIVING OUTSIDE OF TIME ITSELF. IMAGINE BEING ABLE TO ALTER TIME AND REALITY-- TO CONTROL ENERGY. IMAGINE BEING INDESTRUCTIBLE.
NOW IMAGINE IT ALL COMING UNDONE--
-- WHEN A CURSE ONCE BESTOWED BY THE PLANET DEVOURING GALACTUS RESURFACES IN A WAY AS YET UN-EXPLAINED AND UNEXPECTED. AND ALL IS HOW IT WAS ONCE MORE.
IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE IN A PERPETUAL LOOP, WHICH REPEATS ITSELF ENDLESSLY WITH ONLY THE SLIGHTEST VARIATIONS--
FOREVER SEARCHING FOR A WAY OUT.
Stan Lee Presents:
THE DYING GAME
ERIK LARSEN - WRITER JOE BENNETT - PENCILS
ARMANDO DURUTHY - INKER STEVE OLIFF - COLORS SHARPEFONT & PT - LETTERS
RUBEN DIAZ - EDITOR BOB HARRAS - CHIEF

NOVA ® Vol. 2, No. 6, October, 1999. Published by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC. Eric Ellenbogen, President; Avi Arad, Chief Creative Officer; J. Winston Fowlkes, Publisher; Stan Lee, Chairman Emeritus. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1999 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.50 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. NOVA (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. Printed in the U.S.A.

I AM RESTORED.
I AM WHOLE, ONCE MORE.
CATTLE.
YOUR MEANINGLESS LIVES HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE STRENGTH I NEED TO RENEW MY QUEST.
I AM DENIED, IT SEEMS, THE PEACE I'D ONCE ATTAINED.
ONCE, I MERGED WITH ONE LIKE MYSELF--AND THEN WITH THE KA STONE AS WELL. NOW THE FATES CONSPIRE TO DENY ME ONCE MORE.
ONCE I LIVED OUTSIDE TIME AS ITS GUARDIAN. NOW, I AM FORCED TO DWELL ONLY IN THIS REALITY--
IF I AM EVER TO STOP THE INCESSANT REDUNDANCY OF MY LIFE, I MUST SEEK OUT ONCE MORE A GUARDIAN OF THIS UNIVERSE--TO ABSORB FROM HIM THAT WHICH I REQUIRE--
I MUST FIND THE MORTAL KNOWN AS RICHARD RIDER--
--THE MAN CALLED
NOVA!

YOU CALL THAT A GREAT MOVIE?
RICH! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, A FILM MAJOR, NEVER SAW THAT PICTURE BEFORE-- IT'S A CLASSIC-- MAYBE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FILM OF ALL TIME.
WELL, THE ENDING JUST DOESN'T WORK FOR ME, BERNIE.
IT'S HIS SLED?
THE GUY'S ON HIS DEATHBED AND HE WANTS HIS SLED? WHAT'S HE GONNA DO, JUMP OUT OF BED AND RIDE AROUND ON IT?
IT'S SYMBOLIC. IT REPRESENTS A SIMPLER TIME-- INNOCENCE LOST.
I WAS THERE Y'KNOW-- RIGHT UP UNTIL THE END, THEN POW-- IT'S A SLED-- THEY SPENT THE WHOLE MOVIE LOOKING FOR A SLED TO GIVE THE OLD GUY BEFORE HE BOUGHT THE FARM. I DON'T GET IT.
WELL I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE BACK TO HANGING OUT WITH THE NEW WARRIORS AGAIN-- YOU'VE GOT BASEBALL, MARVEL BURGERS, SCHOOL AND BEING NOVA TO OCCUPY YOUR TIME!
AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING A DIFFERENT UNIFORM WHEN YOU'RE WITH THEM? IT'S BEYOND UGLY.
MY FAVORITE WAS THE COSTUME WITH THE RED TWINKIES ON THE SHOULDERS. THAT, MY FRIEND, WAS A COOL COSTUME!
>SIGH<
THEY REALLY NEED MY HELP, GUYS-- AND I DO OWE IT TO THEM.
I KNOW, I MUST BE CRAZY TO TAKE ALL THIS ON, BUT IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.
YOU'RE TRYING TO SCORE WITH NAMORITA AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

I'VE PRETTY MUCH WRITTEN THAT OFF, ROG.
THE COSTUME -- WELL THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.

I REALLY BELONG IN THE MAJORS -- THE AVENGERS, BUT THEY WON'T BOTHER WITH ME IF I'M IN THE WARRIORS.
SO I WAS THINKING THAT MAYBE IF I WORE A DIFFERENT COSTUME, THE PUBLIC WOULD THINK I WAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GUY.
I CAN REFER TO THE GUY IN THE WARRIORS AS "KID NOVA" AND THEN IT WOULDN'T LOOK LIKE I WAS TAKING A STEP BACK.

SO, THEN I THOUGHT --
-- IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT, I CAN MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'VE GOT A SIDEKICK OR AN IMITATOR.

NOTHING MAKES YOU LOOK BETTER THAN HAVING A KID SIDEKICK OR IMITATOR.
IF YOU SAY SO, BOY-CHICK.

PLUS, IF YOU SCREW UP -- SOMEBODY ELSE TAKES THE BLAME!

WHATEVER. SPEAKING OF WHICH -- I'VE GOTTA GET OVER THERE FOR A MEETING NOW.
MONKEY SUIT ON!
OH, BY THE WAY, TELL NITA THAT I FOUND HER SOCKS IN MY ROOM!

HOURS LATER...
ZZZZ... SNNF... GRRMMM
...LIVIN' LA VIDA LOCA...!
GHAAA!!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, BERNIE? I WAS TRYING TO SLEEP HERE!
YOU SCARED THE BEJEEZ-US OUT OF ME!
WHOOPS, SORRY. DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE, BOYCHICK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SLEEPING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON?
I'M EXHAUSTED.
FIRST I HAD A WAR-RIORS MEETING, THEN I HADDA STOP A BANK ROBBERY, THEN TALK WITH THE POLICE ABOUT GINGER'S HUSBAND.
LUCKILY, THEY'RE NOT GONNA PRESS CHARGES -- ONLY GINGER COULD PRESS CHARGES AND SHE WON'T NAME ME.
I NEED TO SLEEP FOR ABOUT TWO DAYS.
>YAWN<
SORRY, PAL. AIN'T POSSIBLE.
CSU

IT'S TIME FOR OUR GAME. THE COACH SAID TO BE THERE EARLY FOR BATTING PRACTICE.
ESU
>SIGH< Y'KNOW, ROG, I'M STILL REALLY NOT COMFORTABLE USING MY POWERS FOR SOMETHING AS MEANINGLESS AS A BASEBALL GAME.
RICH, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH USING ONE'S ABILITIES TO GET AHEAD.
THAT *INCLUDES* BASEBALL.
YOU'RE HELPING YOUR TEAM AND SCHOOL. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING TO OUR GAMES AND THE COACH SAYS IF IT KEEPS UP, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET A NEW SCOREBOARD.
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS AN ETHICAL THING TO DO.
THIS WHOLE SCHEME HAS BEEN IFFY FROM THE GET GO AND I'M REALLY STARTING TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT--
JENNIFER SMITH WILL BE THERE.
I'LL BE READY IN TWO MINUTES.

KRAKK!
ANOTHER HOME RUN! HE WON THE GAME!
TOLD YA HE'D DO IT.
YEAH!
RICH!
ALL RIGHT!
WAY TO GO!
WE WIN!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
REALLY?
YOU WANT MY AUTO-GRAPH?
SURE, I GUESS.
SWEET-HEART, IF YOU WANT TO MEET MY PAL, RICH RIDER, LET BERNIE DILLON SHOW YOU THE WAY.
JUST KEEP ME IN MIND IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT BETWEEN YOU TWO.
HE'S SO DREAMY!
PLEASE, PEOPLE. ONE AUTOGRAPH AT A TIME!
RICH, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET ELIZABETH RAND.
MY-- YOU'RE MY BIGGEST FAN-- I MEAN I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN!
GEE, THANKS.
WHOA!
I WAS WONDERING IF-- WELL, THAT IS-- IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY-- MAYBE WE COULD GO OUT SOME--
OH, RICHARD!
EXCUSE ME A MINUTE.

THAT WAS AMAZING, RICHIE!
REALLY, IT WAS.
JENNIFER SMITH!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BE IN THE MAJORS IN NO TIME!
SIGH.
Y'KNOW, RICHIE--
WE REALLY OUGHT TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.
REALLY?
BUT--I THOUGHT YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND--AREN'T YOU DATING RANDY REED?
NOT ANY MORE.
A GIRL HAS TO HAVE CERTAIN-- STANDARDS. RANDY JUST-- DIDN'T MEASURE UP.
REALLY?
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, KEMOSABE?
GIRLS GO CRAZY.
YOU--ME--DINNER. TONIGHT.
HOW ABOUT IT, CHAMP?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S ACTUALLY ASKING ME OUT!
IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!

SHRAKA
BOOM
OH MY GOD!
OH, PLEASE-- DON'T LET THE WORLD END NOW--
NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE.
TYPICAL.
THE BEST-LOOKING GIRL ON THE PLANET HAS ACTUALLY NOTICED I'M ALIVE AND I'VE GOTTA RUN OFF AND PLAY SUPER HERO AGAIN!
HOW COME I CAN NEVER CATCH A BREAK?
OH MY GOD-- JENNIFER!
BERNIE!
EVERYONE IS GETTING THE LIFE SUCKED OUT OF THEM!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHO'S DOING THIS?

I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT'S DOING THIS BEFORE EVERYONE I KNOW ENDS UP DEAD!

THIS IS TERRIBLE!

IT LOOKS LIKE A BOMB WENT OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN!

I CAN'T SEE A LIVING BEING FOR MILES-- NOTHING'S MOVING--

WAIT!

I SEE SOMETHING--THERE'S SOME MOVEMENT IN THAT BROKEN-DOWN BUILDING.

MAYBE THERE ARE SOME SURVIVORS.

HELLO? IS THERE ANYONE IN HERE?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE! DON'T MOVE, I'LL GET--

ULP.

THRAK

AT LAST!

VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE!

NOW YOU WILL GIVE ME THAT WHICH I SEEK OR I WILL DESTROY THIS VERY PLANET!

KAKADOOM

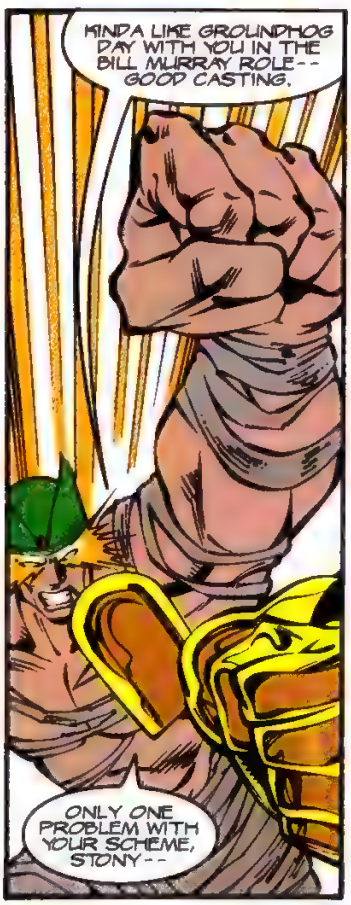
ARRGH!

CHOOM
BLUE BLAZES! THE SPHINX IS BACK--!
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF HIM--
HE'S GOT TO BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS--AND SINCE HE CAN ALTER REALITY--
THAT MEANS THERE'S A CHANCE I CAN UNDO ALL THIS CARNAGE! SAVE THE LIVES OF MY FRIENDS--OF EVERYBODY...!
WHAM
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, SPHINX, BUT I'M GONNA STOP YOU BEFORE YOU GET IT!
AND IF THE AVENGERS SEE WHAT I'VE DONE AND WANT TO RECRUIT ME TO JOIN THEIR RANKS--
ALL THE BETTER!
ACK!
QUIET, STRIPLING--

I REQUIRE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUPER COMPUTER TRAPPED IN YOUR BRAIN.
I WILL GET IT EVEN IF IT REQUIRES TAKING OFF YOUR HEAD AS WELL.
BITE ME, STONE FACE!
FEELS LIKE I'M A PIMPLE READY TO POP--
--NOW, I REALLY WISH I DIDN'T HAVE REED RICHARDS DAMPEN MY POWERS! *
I SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL AFTER THIS GUY SHOWED UP AGAIN.
* NOVA #4--R
ZZZAKK
UGH!
I REMEMBER NOW. I TRIED THAT ONCE BEFORE--THE RESULTS WERE THE SAME.
NO MATTER--
CHOOM
YOU WILL NOT GET AWAY THAT EASILY, BOY.
YOU CALL THAT EASY?
BEAT IT, FOLKS! THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS!
YOU COULD BE--

--KILLED?
AW, NUTS!
UNNGH!
TZORCH
SURRENDER TO ME, RICHARD RIDER--
THERE IS NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE!
STONE-BOY HAS SUCKED THE LIFE OUT OF EVERY LIVING THING--
--MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO TRY TO ABSORB SOME OF HIS ENERGY AND--
WOOHL
--RETURN THE FAVOR!
I'LL SUCK THIS PLANET DRY, IF I MUST--
BAH! YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR MY POWER!
--YOU WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE ME!
HEY--
YOU GREW SOME!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, SPHINX?
FOR GOD'S SAKE--WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT?
REVENGE.
THE BEING KNOWN AS GALACTUS HAS DOOMED ME TO LIVE MY LIFE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. IT'S AN ETERNITY OF ANGUISH I MUST ENDURE.
BUT WITH EACH LIFE RELIVED, I GAIN KNOWLEDGE--EACH TIME I GROW STRONGER--AND ONCE I POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE FROM THE XANDAR SUPER COMPUTER--
--I WILL SUCK THE ENERGY FROM THIS PLANET, THEN XANDAR ITSELF, AND USE THAT POWER TO DESTROY GALACTUS AND FREE MYSELF FROM THIS ENDLESS TORMENT.

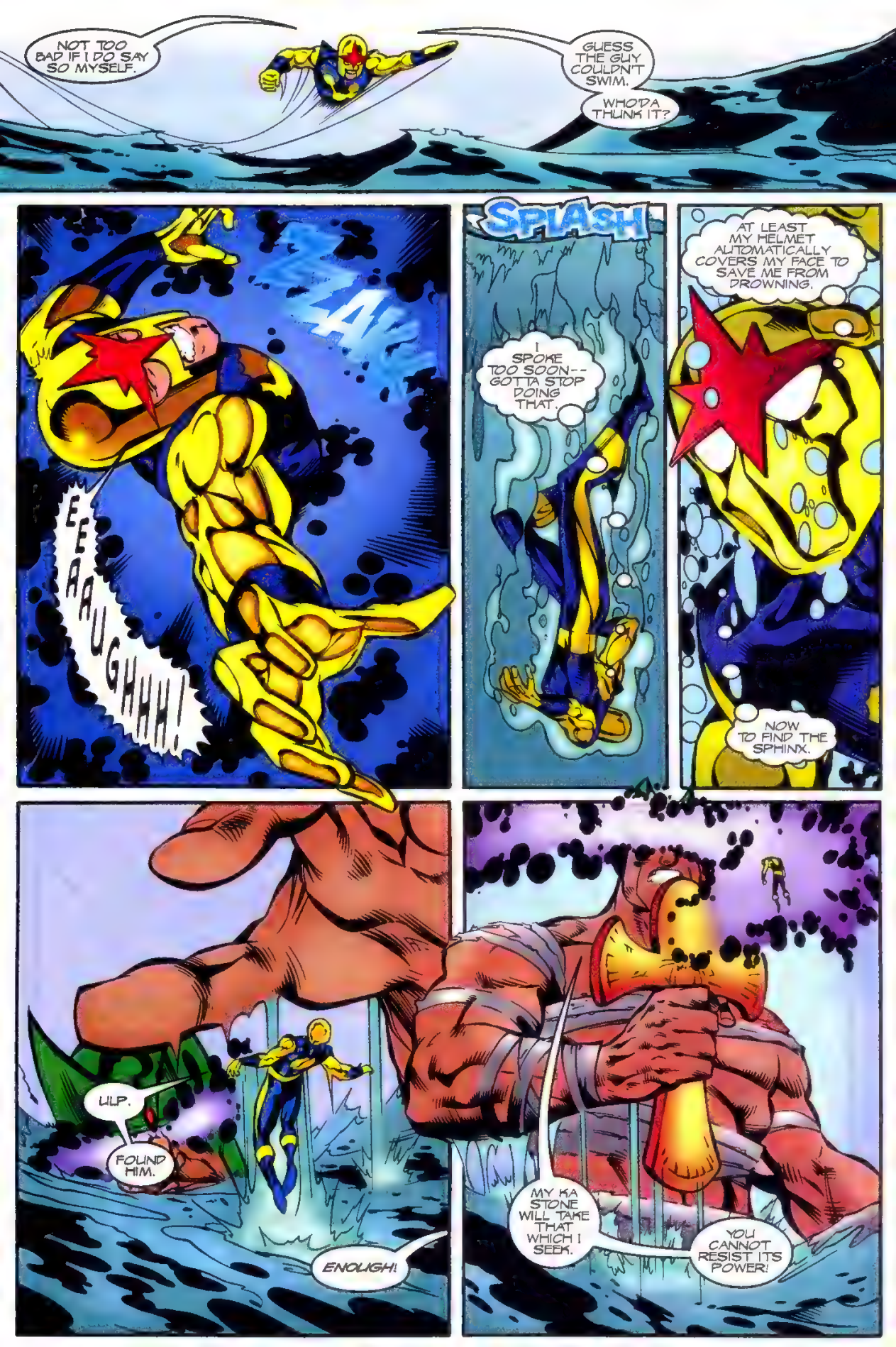

KINDA LIKE GROUNDHOG DAY WITH YOU IN THE BILL MURRAY ROLE--GOOD CASTING.
ONLY ONE PROBLEM WITH YOUR SCHEME, STONY--

SKRAKKATHOOM
I'M NOT THAT JAZZED ABOUT YOU LEAVING MY PLANET AS A LIFELESS HUSK--AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP THE SUPER COMPUTER INFORMATION!

DID THAT DO IT?
WAS IT THAT EASY?
THAT WASN'T SO--

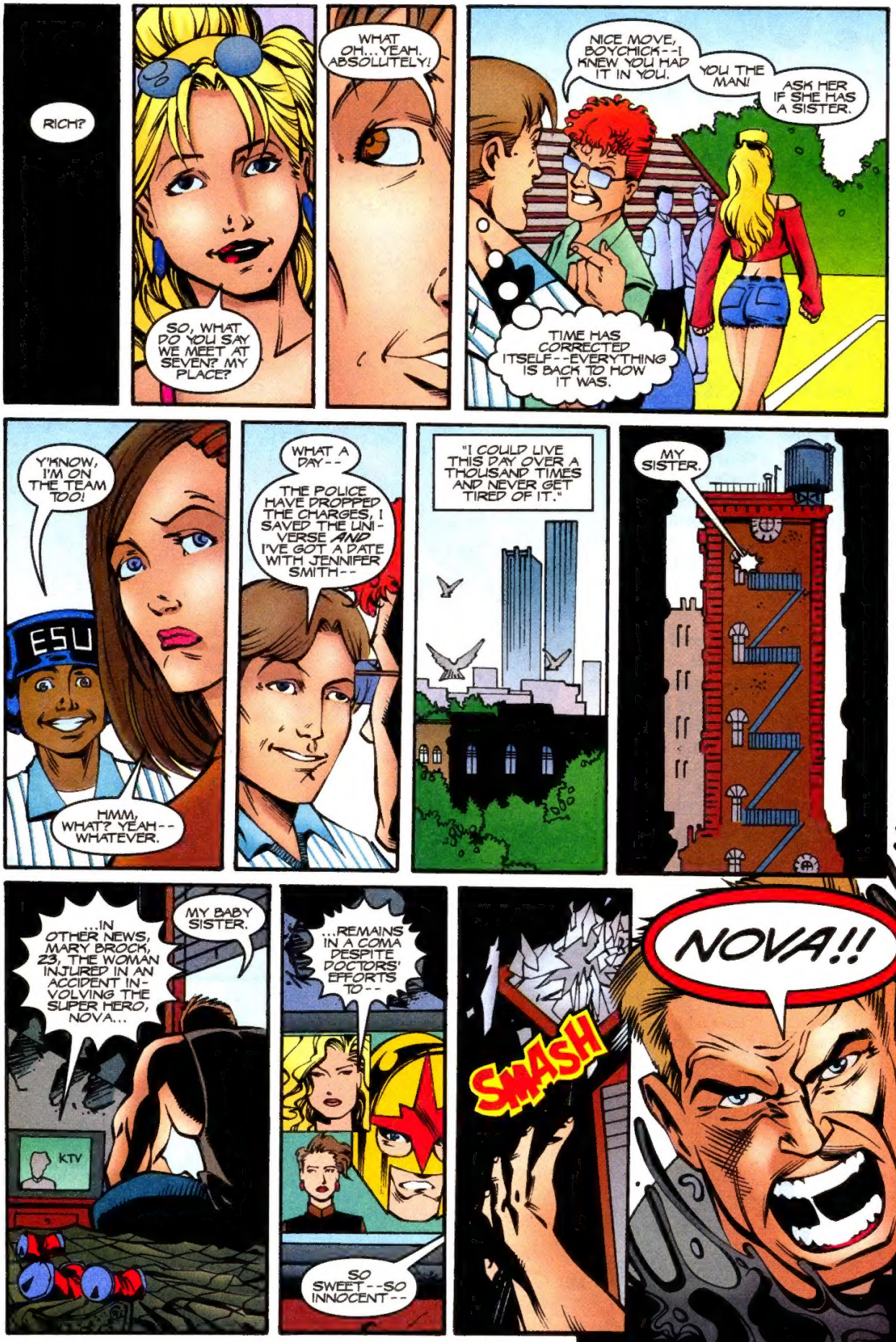
KROOM
--BAD.
YOU YOUNG FOOL--
--DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF STOPPING ME? YOU ARE NOTHING TO ME--
--NOTHING!!
GULP.
I COULD REALLY USE SOME HELP WITH THIS GUY.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU WALK ALL OVER ME, SPHINX--!
HROKK
BAH!
I TIRE OF THESE GAMES--! I WILL HAVE WHAT I WANT!
EVEN NOW I'M DRAWING MORE POWER-- INCREASING MY STRENGTH! I'LL USE MY KA STONE TO SUCK THE INFORMATION FROM YOUR DYING EMBERS, IF I MUST!
YOU MERELY DELAY THE INEVITABLE.

HE'S RIGHT. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING AND DO IT NOW.
UNFORTUNATELY--I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT TO DO!
MAYBE IF I GET HIM AWAY FROM THE CITY--AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE HE'S SUCKING ENERGY FROM IT WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT.
LORD KNOWS, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE THINGS ANY WORSE!
THE ONLY WAY TO MOVE HIM IS BY BUILDING UP A GOOD HEAD OF STEAM.
HERE GOES NOTHING.
FRAKKAFAKOW
SPLOOSH


NOT TOO BAD IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
GUESS THE GUY COULDN'T SWIM.
WHO'DA THUNK IT?
AI
EEARAUGHHH!
SPLASH
I SPOKE TOO SOON-- GOTTA STOP DOING THAT.
AT LEAST MY HELMET AUTOMATICALLY COVERS MY FACE TO SAVE ME FROM DROWNING.
NOW TO FIND THE SPHINX.
ULP.
FOUND HIM.
ENOUGH!
MY KA STONE WILL TAKE THAT WHICH I SEEK.
YOU CANNOT RESIST ITS POWER!

HOO-BOY!
IT WILL SOON BE OVER, MY YOUNG NEMESIS.
I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE--AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO, SAVE FEEL THE SOURCE OF MY POWER DRAW FROM YOU WHAT I DESIRE!
GIVE ME THAT!
NO!
I'LL TAKE THAT "ALL-POWERFUL" KA STONE--AND DON'T YOU WORRY--
I'LL FIND A NICE, SAFE, DRY PLACE TO PUT IT--
--HOW ABOUT--THE SUN?!!
HEAVE-HO!
FWOOM!
NOOOOO!

YES!
THRAKKAKADOOM
NEWS FLASH: SPHINX--
YOU'RE BUSTED!!
ALL RIGHT!
THE PEOPLE ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL!
AND THE BUILDINGS ARE RETURNING TO THE WAY THEY WERE!
WOW!
I ACTUALLY DID IT!
I SAVED THE DAY AGAIN! THINGS DON'T GET ANY BETTER THAN...
...THAT.


RICH?
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE MEET AT SEVEN? MY PLACE?
WHAT OH...YEAH. ABSOLUTELY!
NICE MOVE, BOYCHICK--I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
YOU THE MAN!
ASK HER IF SHE HAS A SISTER.
TIME HAS CORRECTED ITSELF--EVERYTHING IS BACK TO HOW IT WAS.
Y'KNOW, I'M ON THE TEAM TOO!
ESU
HMM, WHAT? YEAH--WHATEVER.
WHAT A DAY--
THE POLICE HAVE DROPPED THE CHARGES, I SAVED THE UNIVERSE AND I'VE GOT A DATE WITH JENNIFER SMITH--
"I COULD LIVE THIS DAY OVER A THOUSAND TIMES AND NEVER GET TIRED OF IT."
MY SISTER.
...IN OTHER NEWS, MARY BROCK, 23, THE WOMAN INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE SUPER HERO, NOVA...
MY BABY SISTER.
KTV
...REMAINS IN A COMA DESPITE DOCTORS' EFFORTS TO--
SO SWEET--SO INNOCENT--
SMASH
NOVA!!

MY SISTER WAS JUST ANOTHER CASUALTY IN NOVA'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF CRIMINALS--
--NOVA HURT MY SISTER!
AND FOR THAT--
VENOM WILL MAKE HIM PAY!
NEXT ISSUE: TAKE A WILD GUESS!